

## Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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TAGS: PFOR, MARR, XG, XF, NATO, EEC

SUBJECT: LUNS INTERVIEW ON NATO, DETENTE, DEFENSE AND EUROPE

1. SUMMARY. "LA LIBRE BELGIQUE" OF DECEMBER 28 CARRIES A  
FULL-PAGE INTERVIEW WITH NATO SECRETARY GENERAL LUNS IN WHICH LUNS  
COMMENTS ON THE STATE OF THE ALLIANCE, DETENTE, EUROPEAN DEFENSE,  
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DEMOCRACY IN NATO, THE MIDDLE EAST WAR AND ENERGY. LUNS IS

SUPPORTIVE OF US POSITIONS AND INITIATIVES AND SOMEWHAT CRITICAL OF FRANCE AS WELL AS EUROPEAN WEAKNESS IN GENERAL. FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF LUNS' REMARKS. FULL TEXT OF INTERVIEW BEING POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT (EUR/RPM) AND USNATO (POL). END SUMMARY

2. STATE OF THE ALLIANCE. THE JOBERT-KISSINGER EXCHANGE AT THE NATO MINISTERIAL DID NOT PREVENT A SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME, WITH AGREEMENT BEING REACHED ON A COMMUNIQUE MORE QUICKLY THAN EVER BEFORE. PERHAPS THIS IS BECAUSE JOBERT REALIZES THAT THE US IS NEEDED AS MUCH AS EVER. NEVERTHELESS, JOBERT NEVER DID ANSWER KISSINGER'S CONVINCING REJECTION OF THE FORMER'S ALLEGATION THAT A US-SOVIET CONDEMINIUM EXISTED. MOREOVER, SOVIET FAILURE TO NOTIFY THE US OF THEIR BUILD-UP DURING THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS DEMONSTRATED THAT THE US-SOVIET AGREEMENT ON THE PREVENTION OF NUCLEAR WAR WAS NOT CONTROLLING IN ALL SITUATIONS. THE US WARNING TO THE USSR (E.G., THE ALERT) INCREASED THE CREDIBILITY OF THE US SECURITY GUARANTEE IN EUROPE. IF THE US HAD NOT ACTED, EUROPE WOULD HAVE BEEN FACED WITH SOVIET TROOPS IN EGYPT. THE US SIMPLY DID NOT HAVE TIME TO CONSULT ITS ALLIES BEFOREHAND. IN GENERAL, HOWEVER, NATO CONSULTATIONS ARE BETTER THAN IN OTHER ORGANIZATIONS, AND THE EUROPEANS SHARE THE BLAME FOR WHATEVER IMPERFECTIONS DO EXIST. THE US PROPOSAL FOR MEETINGS OF THE FIFTEEN POLITICAL DIRECTORS IS A GOOD ONE, AND IT IN NO WAY LESSENS THE ROLE OF THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES, DE STAERCKE IN PARTICULAR.

3. FUTURE EUROPEAN DEFENSE. FRENCH AND BRITISH NUCLEAR FORCES DO PLAY A MEANINGFUL DETERRENT ROLE. A EUROPEAN DEFENSE COMMUNITY WOULD BE COMPATIBLE WITH THE ALLIANCE IF IT WERE INTEGRATED INTO NATO. OUTSIDE OF NATO, AN EDC IS A THEORETICAL POSSIBILITY THAT COULD BE ACHIEVED IN PRACTICE ONLY THROUGH LEVELS OF DEFENSE SPENDING FAR ABOVE THAT WHICH THE EUROPEANS ARE CURRENTLY WILLING TO SUPPORT. MENDES-FRANCE MADE A GREAT MISTAKE IN CAUSING THE FAILURE OF THE EDC IN 1954.

4. NATO AND DEMOCRACY. THE RULE IS THAT THE ALLIANCE DOES NOT CONCERN ITSELF WITH THE NATURE OF MEMBER GOVERNMENTS. HOWEVER, CERTAIN COUNTRIES PRACTICE "SELECTIVE INDIGNATION", I.E., AGAINST ALLIES BUT NOT AGAINST POTENTIAL ENEMIES. GREECE AND PORTUGAL FAVOR DEMOCRACY BUT SAY IT TAKES TIME TO ACHIEVE IT. IN ANY CASE, UNCLASSIFIED

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DEMOCRACY IS A "RARE FLOWER".

5. FUTURE OF DETENTE. LUNS HOPES THE SOVIET COMMUNIST PARTY WILL PUT IDEOLOGICAL EVANGELISM LOWER ON ITS AGENDA. SOVIET DEFENSE BUDGET FIGURES ARE MISLEADING: TWENTY PERCENT OF THE SOVIET GNP STILL GOES FOR MILITARY PURPOSES, AS AGAINST SEVEN PERCENT IN THE US, SIX PERCENT IN THE UK, AND ONE PERCENT IN LUXEMBOURG. WHILE THE RUSSIANS MAY NOT BE PLANNING TO

ATTACK, THEY USE THEIR IMMENSE MILITARY POWER TO POLITICAL ENDS. MOREOVER, THEY WOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF A REVEALED VULNERABILITY IN AN ALLIED COUNTRY, OR AN INTERNAL SOVIET UPHEAVAL MIGHT CALL FOR SOME DIVERSIONARY FOREIGN ADVENTURE.

6. EUROPEAN POLITICAL UNITY. PROGRESS IS HELD BACK BY A COMBINATION OF A LACK OF POLITICAL WILL AND AN ATAVISTIC NATIONALISM. AN ELECTED EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT IS THE ONLY PATH TO A DEMOCRATIC, UNITED EUROPE.

7. ENERGY ACTION GROUP. JOINT ACTION BY THE US, EUROPE AND JAPAN IS OVERDUE. SUCH A VENTURE WOULD NOT WEAKEN THE COMMON MARKET, WHICH WOULD CONSTITUTE A STRONG FORCE IN A COOPERATIVE PROGRAM.  
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